



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

July 25, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM
EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DoD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Directive-Type Memorandum (DTM) 10-022 – Implementing Required
Medical Exam Before Administrative Separation for Post-Traumatic Stress
Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

References: (a) DoD Directive 5124.02, "Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and
Readiness (USD(P&R)), June 23, 2008
(b) Section 512 of Public Law 111-84, "National Defense Authorization
Act for Fiscal Year 2010," October 28, 2009
(c) Sections 1177 and 1553 of title 10, United States Code
(d) DoD Instruction 1332.14, "Enlisted Administrative Separations,"
August 28, 2008
(e) DoD Instruction 1332.28, "Discharge Review Board (DRB) Procedures
and Standards," April 4, 2004
(f) Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Memorandum,
"Policy Guidance for Separation Physical Examinations," October 14,
2005

Purpose. This DTM, in accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02
(Reference (a)):

- Pursuant to the provisions mandated by section 512 of Public Law 111-84 (Reference (b)), provides DoD guidance in accordance with section 1177 of title 10, United States Code (Reference (c)), for conduct of a medical examination to evaluate a PTSD or TBI diagnosis prior to administratively separating a Service member, under conditions other than honorable, who has deployed overseas in support of a contingency operation during the previous 24 months.
- Pursuant to section 1553 of Reference (c), requires discharge review boards (DRBs) to issue expedited decisions when considering former Service members whose discharge review applications are based, in whole or in part, on issues relating to PTSD or TBI. Credential requirements for the medical personnel who conduct the examination actions and serve on DRBs are found in Reference (c).
- Shall be incorporated into DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1332.14 (Reference (d)) and DoDI 1332.28 (Reference (e)) and shall supplement Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Memorandum (Reference (f)). This DTM shall expire effective January 30, 2011.
- Is effective upon its publication to the DoD issuances Website; related statutory provisions were effective on the date of enactment of Reference (b), October 28, 2009.

Applicability. This DTM applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the Department of Defense.

Responsibilities. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

- Publish implementing guidance within 30 days of the date this DTM is published.
- Provide to the USD(P&R), as required by Reference (b), not later than August 13, 2010:
 - The list of officials (duty position and title) required to review physical examinations to determine the possible influence of PTSD or TBI on the behavior of Service members before their separation under other than honorable conditions.

- The procedures adopted to ensure that appropriate physical examinations required by Reference (c) are conducted.
- The procedures adopted to ensure that the medical reviews required by Reference (c) are conducted.
- The procedures adopted to ensure that requests for review of discharges based on matters related to PTSD or TBI are considered in a timely manner by boards that include appropriate medical personnel, as required by Reference (c).

Procedures. See Attachment.

Releasability. UNLIMITED. This DTM is approved for public release and is available on the DoD Issuances Website at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clifford L. Stanley".

Clifford L. Stanley
Under Secretary of Defense
for Personnel and Readiness

Attachment:
As stated

ATTACHMENT

REVISED AND NEW GUIDANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

1. GENERAL. The respective DoD issuances in sections 2 and 3 are revised as indicated, in accordance with section 1177 of Reference (c). References cited in the numbered paragraphs pertain to the reference listings in the respective DoD issuances, not the references cited in this attachment.

2. CHANGES TO REFERENCE (D)

a. Revise paragraph 2.c.(5)(b) of Enclosure 2: change “section 1145” to “sections 1145 and 1177.”

b. Add new paragraphs 2.c.(5)(b)1., 2.c.(5)(b)2., and 2.c.(5)(b)3. to Enclosure 2 to read:

“1. A Service member must receive a medical examination to assess whether the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) constitute matters in extenuation that relate to the basis for administrative separation if the member:

a. Is being administratively separated under a characterization other than Honorable; and

b. Was deployed overseas to a contingency operation during the previous 24 months; and

c. Is diagnosed by a physician, clinical psychologist, or psychiatrist as experiencing PTSD or TBI, or reasonably alleges the influence of PTSD or TBI based on deployed service to a contingency operation during the previous 24 months; and

d. Is not being separated under courts-martial or other proceedings conducted pursuant to appendix 2 of chapter 47 of the Manual for Courts-Martial (Reference (o)).

2. In a case involving PTSD, the medical examination required in subparagraph 2.c.(5)(b)1. shall be performed by a clinical psychologist or psychiatrist. In

a case involving TBI, the medical examination may be performed by a physician, clinical psychologist, psychiatrist, or other health-care professional, as appropriate.

3. A Service member receiving a medical examination in accordance with subparagraphs 2.c.(5)(b)1. and 2.c.(5)(b)2. shall not be separated until the result of the medical examination has been reviewed by appropriate authorities responsible for evaluating, reviewing, and approving the separation case, as determined by the Secretary concerned.”

3. CHANGES TO REFERENCE (E)

a. Add this sentence to the end of paragraph 4.2.: “The Secretary concerned shall ensure review of an application seeking corrective action by the Military Department DRB based on a diagnosis by a physician, clinical psychologist, or psychiatrist as experiencing a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a consequence of a deployment in support of a contingency operation. DRBs established for this purpose shall:”

b. Add new paragraphs 4.2.1 and 4.2.2. to read:

“4.2.1. Include a Service member who is a physician, clinical psychologist, or psychiatrist.

4.2.2. Expedite a final decision and accord such cases sufficient priority to achieve an expedited resolution. In determining the priority of cases, the board shall weigh the medical and humanitarian circumstances of all cases and accord higher priority to cases not involving PTSD or TBI only when those individual cases are considered more compelling.”